

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MILAN 02038 271644Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 H-01 PRS-01 PA-01
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R 271350Z DEC 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5768
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T MILAN 2038

EO 11652: XGDS - JAN 1988
TAGS: SCUL PINT IT UR
SUBJECT: MOSCOW OLYMPICS - SOVIET EFFORT TO EXCLUDE RFE

SUMMARY: SECGEN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS WRITERS ASSOCIATION ASKS
HELP TO COUNTER SOVIET PRESSURE TO BAR SELECTED JOURNALISTS
FROM 1980 OLYMPICS IN USSR. END SUMMARY.

1. SECGEN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPORT PRESS ASSOCIATION MASSIMO
DELLA PERGOLA CALLED ON ME DEC 24 IN PRIVATE CAPACITY CONCERNING
SOVIET PRESSURE TO SCREEN OUT CRITICAL WESTERN SPORTS CORRESPON-
DENTS FROM MOSCOW OLYMPICS.

2. DELLA PERGOLA, A RESIDENT OF MILAN, HAD BEEN IN USSR DURING
PERIOD 11-18 DECEMBER TO MEET WITH SOVIET OLYMPICS OFFICIALS.
AMONG THOSE WITH WHOM HE MET WERE MINISTER PAVLOV AND HIS
DEPUTY IVONIN, MEMBERS OF THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR
PRESS, SHEVSHENKO, AND KISELIV, PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET SPORTS
WRITERS ASSOCIATION. (SPELLINGS ARE PHONETIC).

3. ACCORDING TO DELLA PERGOLA, THE SOVIETS TOLD HIM THAT THEY
WOULD BAR THE PRESENCE OF CERTAIN HOSTILE FOREIGN SPORTS WRITERS
AND PUT PRESSURE UPON HIM TO DENY THEM ACCREDITATION WITH AIPS.

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SPECIFICALLY, THEY WERE OUT AFTER THE CORRESPONDENT FOR RADIO
FREE EUROPE.

4. DELLA PERGOLA SAID THAT HE HAD OPPOSED ANY DISCRIMINATION BUT
THAT THE SOVIETS WERE LOADING (OR HAD LOADED) THE AIPS WITH IDC
MEMBERS WHOM THEY CONTROLLED. AND SINCE REPRESENTATION WAS ON THE
BASIS OF ONE STATE ONE VOTE, THE FAR LEFT COULD PRETTY MUCH DICTATE

AIPS POLICY. HE COULD NOT, FOR THAT REASON, IMAGINE WHY HE HAD BEEN ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL SINCE HE WAS NOT A MARXIST SYMPATHIZER.

5. THE REASON FOR HIS CALL WAS BOTH TO ALERT THE US TO THE EFFORT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE MOUNTING AND TO URGE THAT WE TAKE SOME STEPS TO COUNTER SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE AIPS.

6. PART OF THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THE US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND SOME OTHER WESTERN STATES WERE NOT MEMBERS OF AIPS. THAT WAS BECAUSE MEMBERSHIP WAS BY NATIONAL FEDERATIONS AND HE SUPPOSED THAT THE US EL AL HAD NO SUCH ORGANIZATION. STILL, HE ARGUED, THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO QUALIFY FOR REPRESENTATION IF THE ABSENT WESTERN COUNTRIES WISH TO DO SO. HE WOULD BE MORE THAN GLAD TO COOPERATE.

7. SPORTS WRITERS, DELLA PERGOLA MAINTAINED, WERE MORE IMPORTANT POLITICALLY THAN DIPLOMATS MIGHT GUESS. THEIR READERSHIP WAS ENORMOUS AND EMBRACED A SECTOR OF WESTERN SOCIETY THAT WAS OFTEN NOT REACHED BY THE POLITICAL PRESS. WHAT AND HOW THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS WERE REPORTED WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE WEST - JUST AS THE SOVIETS OBVIOUSLY REALIZED.

8. DELLA PERGOLA URGED THAT SOME THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO THE PROBLEM HE HAD RAISED AND THAT WE INFORM HIM IF WE HAD ANY ADVICE.

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9. DELLA PERGOLA STRIKES ME AS A RESPONSIBLE, WELL-BALANCED AND FRIENDLY CONTACT. HE HAS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION LOCALLY AMONG JOURNALISTS.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO REPLY TO DELLA PERGOLA'S REQUEST.FINA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: X1 JAN 1988
Errors: N/A
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